

ONE BURNED ALIVE.

And Two Other Colored Murderers Hanged by a Mob

AFTER THEY HAD CONFESSED.

The Story of the Crime For Which They Suffered the Penalty—An Entire Family Wiped Out for the Only Reason that a Mother Forbid an Undesirable Suitor Paying Attention to Her Daughter—The Slaughter of the Victims was Peculiarly Brutal—The Burning at the Stake Occurred in the Front of the House of the Murdered People.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 20.—John Johnson, the Cotton family murderer, was burned at the stake in front of the Cotton residence, near Amite city, at 2 o'clock this morning. Arch Joiner was hanged.

The same mob also lynched Gus Williams, who was accused of murdering his wife. All three of the men executed by the mob were colored.

Johnson and Joiner, according to the confession of the former, were guilty of the murder of the five members of the Cotton family near here some time ago. The trio of murderers was taken from the jail at Amite city all together last night by the mob. Shortly afterward a report was received that Williams had been hanged to a big oak tree in front of the Little Zion church, not far from Amite, and that the mob was on its way to Tickfaw. Johnson and Joiner, who would no doubt meet a horrible fate.

Johnson and Joiner were brought to Amite city from New Orleans yesterday, to plead to the indictments against them, and after the hearing, were remanded without bail. On the day a party of citizens called at the jail and Johnson made his confession. His story of the slaughter of the family was peculiarly brutal.

He said that he had always liked the Cotton family and would not have harmed them had it not been for the fact that he was bullied into what he did. He said that he and his partner, Arch Joiner, were taken to a place where they were to watch a door. The murder, Johnson said, was planned by Bud McKnight, a white man, who was a suitor of the girl, Maude Miller, whose mother, Mrs. Cotton, whipped for allowing McKnight's attentions to the girl. He said McKnight shot Cotton, the head of the household, with a gun, then struck Mervin Stevens, the son of Mrs. Agnes Stevens, with an axe on the forehead, knocking him back on the head and killing him. Joiner finished the men and then went to the room which was occupied by Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Cotton and Lizzie Miller, with Maude and several children, and killed the three women.

When the crowd found deputy sheriff Marshal Wainwright last night they compelled him to open the jail and deliver to them three negroes, John Johnson, Arch Joiner and Gus Williams. The latter was hung near Amite city, while the former was conveyed to the scene of his crime, the Cotton home, a distance of twelve miles.

A rain storm was prevailing when the line of march was taken up and the progress was slow and exceedingly disagreeable. Joiner and Johnson walked about a mile, when Johnson said he could go no farther, that he was exhausted. A wagon was procured and both negroes hustled into it. The rain came down in torrents and the night was dismal and the darkness of every one as they rode slowly along, muffled up in his overcoats, was enough to fill the hearts of the negroes with deepest awe. There were probably two hundred men in line, all exceedingly orderly and quiet.

When Independence was reached, a man was made and those who desired were given an opportunity to view the negroes, after which the march was again resumed, this time in a southeasterly direction from Independence, over rough and slippery roads, the rain falling in torrents all the while. When within a few miles of the residence formerly occupied by the Cottons, some of the crowd set up a yell, and much promiscuous shooting was indulged in. Just before reaching Cotton's place, a few lines of "Nearer My God to Thee," was hummed to the accompaniment of the fife, where the fife music was committed, Johnson and Joiner were made to jump out of the wagon. Joiner had in some way loosened the rope on his hands, and, watching his opportunity, made a daring break for freedom. He got off a few feet, when some one grabbed him, when he shot to the ground, but took no notice. Others rushed to the rescue and Arch was soon subdued, and a rope placed around his neck. Johnson seemed sullen and said nothing, nor did he endeavor to escape. Joiner set up a piteous moan, and begged the crowd to shoot him, but to no avail, and he was shot to death by the crowd.

He then requested to be permitted to fight Johnson, saying that Johnson had got him into all the trouble. Johnson signified his desire to fight, and they were given an opportunity to gratify their passion for a much smaller than Joiner, put up a good fight and dealt Joiner some telling blows. The spectacle of the two men, who, as it were, were on the very brink of the great hereafter, fighting, has probably never been witnessed before. They were conveyed to different rooms of the house and by threats of severe torture Joiner was asked to tell all he knew about the Cotton murders. He stoutly denied having ever seen John Johnson before and denied having any knowledge as to who killed the people. He finally, by threats of torture, and more threats, Joiner admitted that he came to the fence the night of the murders, but no nearer the house. In the meantime another squad had Johnson off, getting his confession. He vehemently maintained that Arch Joiner was the instigator of the whole plot, and that Arch was the guilty one. Some one suggested putting them to death by burning them. Nearly every one acquiesced in this suggestion and the three big fires were started, one for the men who were all wet, to dry, and for the women and the children, and for the purpose of burning the negroes. Most of the men were eager to burn Johnson anyway, and it is generally believed that he was put on the fire for a minute or two, but others pleaded for him and the programs was changed.

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'SINGLE STANDARD' AGAIN REPLIES

And Calls on Mr. Hawley to Define What He Means by His Equalization Theory. To the Editor of the Intelligencer.

SIR—Mr. Hawley replies briefly to my rejoinder of the 19th in your issue of yesterday, but, as heretofore, he throws no light whatever on the all important point with which he closed his first communication published in your paper of the 18th, which point was that under his plan or theory, or whatever he chooses to call it, the free coinage of silver might become a "reasonable reality."

Now the phrase "reasonable reality" ought to stand for something in the mind of a writer who employs such words, and I was in hope that they really did represent something tangible and practicable to Mr. Hawley's mind; something that he could "enlarge," as a photographer would express it, so as to make us all see plainly the exact bearing of his phrase. But this he is either unable or unwilling to do. He leaves us staring justly precisely where he left us in his first article, all that he is apparently willing to say is this, that "so long as the government coins any silver money, every silver dime should contain one-tenth of all the silver that can be bought for a gold dollar and every silver quarter should contain one-fourth of all the silver that can be bought for a gold dollar, and if the government coins silver dollars each one should contain all the silver that can be bought for a gold dollar."

This restatement of his position leaves out any specific reaffirmation of his hypothesis that a scheme can be devised whereby the free coinage of silver may become a "reasonable reality," and simply contends that as a condition precedent thereto we should make all our silver coins equal in value to gold.

This condition precedent was the point that I particularly criticized in my article of the 19th, and the one upon which Mr. Hawley's theory or plan turns at its very initial. I desired him to explain why he desired twice as large and twice as heavy as our present silver dollars would get into circulation, or be kept going from one man's pocket to another. This criticism he ignores, and instead of showing that such money could in some way become a "reasonable reality," he goes on to say that not only is he in favor of loading up our silver dollars with all our smaller silver coins as well. They are all to be called in, remelted, enlarged and weighted up to the gold standard, whatever may be the size or weight required.

Now, Mr. Editor, I would again ask Mr. Hawley to explain what such money would be for as a circulating medium. Will he hazard his reputation for common sense as either advocating or favoring such a coinage? Will he explain how often he would expect to recoup our silver money? The bullion in it is changing all the time, nearly every day, in value, and if it is to be made equal to gold, it must be guaranteed its price for ever and a month?

Mr. Hawley must be familiar with the wide fluctuations in the value of silver in the last few years. He knows that it has risen and fallen like a stock in the market. Knowing this, would he advocate the alternate enlargement and reduction of the size and weight of our present money in order to keep pace with these fluctuations in the value of silver? To ask such a question is to answer it. The experiment would be the wildest scheme of attempted party in coinage ever broached in this or any other country. To begin with, our present half, quarters and dimes are all under a radical revolution in their character. They are all light weight coins made up on purpose—and are not equal in value to the present silver dollar. Two half dollars, or four quarters, or ten dimes, are not equal to a silver dollar. But Mr. Hawley's plan would not only equalize them with the silver dollar, but likewise with the gold dollar, and the result would be that just as soon as there was a variation in the value of silver, it would be liable to see what we have seen before, viz: the change of the people going into the smelting pots of the speculators.

There is a feature of Mr. Hawley's theory that is practically, it has been exploded and discarded. The world has come to see plainly that all attempts to equalize the coinage of two metals that are commercially tending more and more apart is futile and vexatious and demoralizing. Only to a degree more or less remote do the nations concern themselves as to the parity of gold and silver. To restrict the coinage to keep it equal to gold is to keep it out of circulation. It is to go on purpose—and are not equal in value to the present silver dollar. Two half dollars, or four quarters, or ten dimes, are not equal to a silver dollar. But Mr. Hawley's plan would not only equalize them with the silver dollar, but likewise with the gold dollar, and the result would be that just as soon as there was a variation in the value of silver, it would be liable to see what we have seen before, viz: the change of the people going into the smelting pots of the speculators.

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A Woman Who Stole Over \$20,000 Virtually Freed by the Courts.